

Nevada Department of Agriculture News Release

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Fallon Horse Tests Positive for West Nile Virus

Reno – Late Thursday evening, The Nevada Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease & Food Safety Laboratory confirmed that test samples from a horse in Fallon were positive for West Nile Virus.

On Wednesday, a Fallon veterinarian contacted Dr. David Thain, State Veterinarian, and reported that a client's horse was exhibiting signs compatible with West Nile Virus. The horse was euthanized later that day.

A USDA Veterinary Services team member collected tissue samples from the horse and submitted them to NDOA's Animal Disease & Food Safety Lab for testing. West Nile Virus was confirmed by using real time PCR testing that specifically looks for the genetic material of West Nile Virus.

"This Fallon horse had not been vaccinated against West Nile Virus," said Dr. David Thain. "We are urging horse owners to get there horses vaccinated. If your horse was vaccinated last year you need a booster," Thain added. Mules and donkeys should be vaccinated as well.

Horse owners should contact their veterinarian for vaccination information. The Nevada Department of Agriculture does not vaccinate private party horses.

Other practical measures that should be taken by horse owners throughout the State include use of equine insect repellent and attention to troughs used to water the animals.

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